

ask the majority leader to simply acknowledge that and let us move on with our business.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will again yield, I want to express my own personal appreciation for the fine expressions of sentiment and commitment I have heard from the Members on this important matter of Veterans' Day. And I can tell my colleagues that I am only touched by what I have heard.

I have talked to the Members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. They too, of course, have focused on this with a great deal of interest and commitment and they have encouraged me to remind Members that for those of us who may have difficulties in getting back to our own districts, that we will have ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery where, of course, some of our Nation's greatest heroes are interred, and we will make every resource available to assist Members in getting to those very important ceremonies.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and would say in conclusion that I would hope the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) could be more definitive in terms of a time within the next couple of hours so people could plan accordingly for not only this evening, but for the weekend if that is, in fact, what the majority desires, and I thank the gentleman.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF HON. DALE E. KILDEE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) laid before the House the following communication from Barbara Donnelly, assistant district director for Hon. DALE E. KILDEE, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 2, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a trial subpoena issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in the case of *U.S. v. Fayzakov*, No. 99-CR-50015.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BARBARA DONNELLY,
Assistant District Director.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

FATHERS COUNT ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 367 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in

the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3073.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3073) to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide for grants for projects designed to promote responsible fatherhood, and for other purposes, with Mr. SHIMKUS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) each will control 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON).

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first let me thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), my colleague and ranking member, and his tireless, able staff for their good work in developing both the programmatic language of this bill and its funding provisions.

Mr. CARDIN has indeed been a fine partner, both for his substantive knowledge and frank and cooperative working style. I also want to thank my friends on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, especially the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman GOODLING) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) for their excellent work on this bill and for their spirit of cooperation in working out a compromise between the bills written by our two committees.

Finally, let me thank my chief of staff of the Subcommittee on Human Resources, Dr. Ron Haskins, who has an extraordinary knowledge of problems, programs, the law, and the possibilities.

Mr. Chairman, the major provision of this legislation is the Fathers Count Act of 1996. This legislation will fund projects directed at helping poor fathers meet their responsibilities by promoting marriage, improving their parenting skills, and developing their earning power.

Welfare reform stimulated the development of far better services for welfare-dependent mothers; services that could help her identify her skills, provide her with the knowledge that could help her succeed in the workplace, find a job, work, and progress.

This bill is an attempt to provide the same support and opportunity to the poor fathers of children on welfare. Our goal is to help them find steadier em-

ployment and develop their careers so they can provide the economic support so crucial to their child's well-being.

Our second goal is to help them develop a better relationship with their child and with the child's mother. Why? Because kids need dads. Dads count, just like moms count.

Research unequivocally shows that the great majority of children born outside of marriage do not realize their potential. They are much more likely to live on welfare, fail in school, be arrested, quit school, use drugs and go on welfare themselves as adults.

Two decades of careful research now decisively shows that we are neglecting the interests of a very specific group of kids, the children born of unmarried parents by neglecting the concerns of their parents and making no effort to build an emotional support structure, as well as an economic support structure, around them.

Welfare reform addressed many of the concerns of their mothers constructively with help finding a job, subsidized day care and so forth. Now we need to help their dads find better jobs, learn to parent, gain the knowledge to develop a good relationship with the mom, and marry if they both desire.

We must, in sum, help those mostly young adults create a more stable environment economically and emotionally for their children so their children will enjoy the opportunity kids should have in America.

Mr. Chairman, surprisingly and encouragingly, a recent study by renowned researcher Sara McLanahan of Princeton University shows that at the time of nonmarital births, over half of the parents are cohabiting and about 80 percent say they are in an exclusive relationship that they hope will lead to marriage or at least become permanent.

It seems reasonable to us that if we develop ways to support these young couples when they are still exclusively committed to each other and to their child, they may be able to maintain their adult relationship and develop their parenting relationship.

Thus, our bill will provides a modest amount of money, \$150 million over 6 years, to encourage community-based organizations and governmental organizations to conduct projects to help these young parents. Projects will be awarded on a competitive basis. Not only will the projects aim to help couples develop healthy relationships including marriage, but they would also provide the educational opportunities and other supports through which good parenting and relational skills can be honed and the earning power of the father developed.

Even if the parents remain separate, the projects help fathers play an important role in their family through both the payment of child support and through good parenting of the child and open communication with the other parent.